

## Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05

ISO-00 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 /099 W

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P 221133Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6922

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 06084

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, JO, UNGA, OTRA (MEZVINSKY, EDWARD)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF U.S. REP TO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

- MEZVINSKY TO JORDAN

SUMMARY: DURING TWO-DAY VISIT U.S. REP TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION EDWARD MEZVINSKY DISCUSSED ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES, HUMAN RIGHTS ON WEST BANK AND IN JORDAN, DEVELOPMENT OF JORDANIAN NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (NCC), AND WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. HE ALSO SAW AID JORDAN VALLEY PROJECTS, POOR AREAS OF AMMAN, AND UNRWA FACILITIES. HE WAS FORCEFULLY TOLD JORDANIAN PERCEPTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS GREATLY AFFECTED BY APPARENT LACK, IN JORDANIAN VIEW, OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF WEST BANKERS. GOJ OFFICIALS SAID EAST BANK RIGHTS SITUATION IMPROVING AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION ABU ODEH GAVE PERSONAL ESTIMATE OF 10-100 POLITICAL DETAINEES IN JORDAN. END SUMMARY.

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1. DURING TWO-DAY VISIT U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION EDWARD MEZVINSKY MET REPRESENTATIVE GROUP OF JORDANIAN POLITICAL FIGURES, INCLUDING COURT CHIEF SHARAF, MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HASSAN IBRAHIM AND MININFO ADNAN ABU ODEH. HE ALSO SAW USAID JORDAN VALLEY PROJECTS, WAS BRIEFED ON UNRWA REFUGEE

PROGRAMS BY UNRWA DIRECTOR FOR JORDAN AND VISITED UNRWA CAMP AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, AS WELL AS TOURING POOR AREAS OF AMMAN WHERE USAID CONSIDERING PROJECTS.

2. IN JULY 19 MEETING, MEZVINSKY, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE, WAS TOLD BY HASSAN IBRAHIM AND HASEM NUSAYBAH, GOJ UN PERM REP, THAT WHILE JORDANIANS UNDERSTOOD AND SUPPORTED INTER-SHARANSKY, WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THEIR VIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS AFFECTED BY APPARENT LACK OF U.S. AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONCERN FOR VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON WEST BANK BY ISRAELI MILITARY OCCUPATION. NUSAYBAH CITED ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND INTERROGATIONS, ISRAELI PROCEDURES FOR BRIDGE CROSSINGS, AND PRISON CONDITIONS AS PARTICULARLY BAD. MEZVINSKY AND CHARGE REPLIED THAT IT WRONG TO SAY U.S. UN-CONCERNED BY ALLEGED ISRAELI VIOLATIONS; OUR CONCERN DEMONSTRATED BY MEZVINSKY VISIT TO ISRAEL, U.S. HAD MADE CLEAR ITS OPPOSITION TO WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS, AND HAD EXPRESSED CONCERN THROUGH REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES AND DIRECTLY TO GOI. NUSAYBAH AND IBRAHIM WELCOMED THESE ACTIONS, BUT NUSAYBAH ARGUED THEY WERE "MILD" AND HAD NO EFFECT.

3. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION MINISTER OF INFORMATION ADNAN ABU ODEH SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO VIOLATIONS GENERALLY MENTIONED, ISRAELI OCCUPATION CAUSED PERVASIVE UNCERTAINTY IN REGARD TO FAMILY AND FUTURE THAT MANIFESTED ITSELF IN PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS AND EMIGRATION FROM WEST  
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BANK. HE ACCEPTED THAT WE NOW MAKING CONCERNS ON RIGHTS OF WEST BANKERS KNOWN TO ISRAELIS, AND THAT THERE MORE FAVORABLE CLIMATE OF OPINION IN THE U.S. TO SUPPORT SUCH ACTIONS, BUT NOTED THAT USG HAS LONG EXPRESSED ITS OPPOSITION TO SETTLEMENTS WITHOUT RESULT.

4. IN IBRAHIM CONVERSATION MEZVINSKY NOTED U.S. NON-PARTICIPATION IN WORLD CONFERENCE ON RACISM AND REASONS BEHIND IT, AND POINTED OUT LIKELY ADVERSE REACTION IN U.S. THAT COULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ISSUES IF CONFERENCE REAFFIRMED UNGA RESOLUTION 3379. JORDANIANS TOOK POINT.

5. MEZVINSKY ALSO RAISED JORDANIAN POLITICAL LIBERALIZATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS, NOTING PRESS REPORTS OF CALLS IN NEW NATIONAL CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL (NCC) FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES AND GREATER PRESS FREEDOM. HASSAN IBRAHIM SAID THAT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN JORDAN NOT BAD, BUT NOT PERFECT, NOTING SPECIAL SECURITY SITUATION IN WHICH JORDAN FOUND ITSELF BECAUSE OF WEST BANK

AND PALESTINIAN REFUGEES. HE THOUGHT SITUATION IMPROVING, CITING ESTABLISHMENT OF NCC, WHICH HE SAID, SEEMED TO BE CONSIDERABLE SUCCESS, LARGELY, HE FELT, BECAUSE COUNCIL-MEN SEEMED TO APPRECIATE GOVERNMENT'S PROBLEMS.

6. ABU ODEH TOOK DIFFERENT TACK, APPROVING COUNCIL, BUT SAYING THAT HE WOULD TELL THOSE CALLING FOR POLITICAL PARTIES THAT PARTIES ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR A JORDAN FACING SEVERAL VARIETIES OF INTERNAL SUBVERSION SUPPORTED BY EXTERNAL FORCES. MANY POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD BE SUB-

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SERVIENT TO FOREIGN GROUPS BY VIRTUE OF SUBSIDIES AND WOULD ACT AGAINST REGIME UNDER COVER OF CONSTITUTION. HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD HAVE ADVISED GOVERNMENT NOT TO APPOINT SOME OF WELL KNOWN "EXTREMISTS" WHO ARE NCC MEMBERS.

7. FOLLOWING DISCUSSION OF ALLEGED ISRAELI INTERROGATIVE DETENTIONS, ABU ODEH, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, SAID GOJ'S DETENTION FOR INTERROGATION RANGES UP TO ONE YEAR, BUT AVERAGE WAS ABOUT THREE MONTHS. HE CLAIMED MANY SUCH DETAINEES ARE RELEASED ON PLEDGE NOT TO CARRY OUT FURTHER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AND THAT INTERROGATION AND RELEASE MORE ADVANTAGEOUS TO DETAINEE, SINCE IF DETAINEE CHARGED EXPEDITIOUSLY, TRIED, AND FOUND GUILTY SENTENCES WOULD BE

LENGTHY FOR SECURITY OFFENSES. ABU ODEH ALSO GAVE AS PERSONAL ESTIMATE THAT THERE WERE FROM 10 TO 100 POLITICAL DETAINEES AT ANY ONE TIME. (COMMENT: EMBASSY WOULD MAKE SIMILAR ESTIMATE, ALTHOUGH FIGURES THIS AREA HARD TO COME CONFIDENTIAL

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BY).

8. NOTHING NEW EMERGED FROM EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF ARAB ISRAELI ISSUES. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON CONSEQUENCES OF FUTURE OF PEACE PROCESS ABU ODEH IMPLIED ARABS WOULD BE NOT MUCH WORSE OFF THAN THEY ARE NOW. THE U.S. "WOULD HAVE THE ALBATROSS"; ARABS WOULD SEE FAILURE AS U.S. RESPONSIBILITY, AND GREATEST HARM WOULD BE TO U.S. INTERESTS.

9. FOREGOING CLEARED IN DRAFT BY MEZVINSKY.SUDDARTH

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## Message Attributes

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